AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A home network system, comprising:

at least two electric devices; and

a network based on a predetermined protocol for connecting the electric devices,

wherein a message transmitted between one electric device and the other electric device comprises:

a command code field including a command code ~~implying an operation~~ that is to be performed by the other electric device, and

an argument field including the number of arguments ~~extendable~~ according to a version of a protocol applied to one electric device for performing the ~~operation~~ command code, wherein the other electric device executes an operation by using the command code and as many arguments as necessary in the version of the protocol applied to the other electric device

2.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the other electric device receives the message, and extracts arguments from the argument field according to [[a]] the version of [[a]] the protocol applied to the other electric device ~~for performing the operation, and processes the arguments~~.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the other electric device discards arguments which are not extracted from the argument field.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein, when arguments included in the argument field of the message are deficient, the other electric device sets the deficient arguments as predetermined values.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Currently Amended) An electric device based on a predetermined protocol comprising:

at least a lower layer and an upper layer,

wherein the upper layer is configured to:

receive from the lower layer a message including a command code field <u>including a</u> <u>command code</u> ~~implying an operation~~ that is to be performed by the electric device, and an argument field <u>including the number of arguments</u> ~~extendable~~ according to a version of a protocol applied to the electric device for performing the <u>command code</u> ~~operation~~,

extract a command code from the message,

extract <u>as many</u> arguments ~~from the argument field~~ <u>as necessary in</u> ~~according to~~ the version of the protocol applied to the electric device <u>from the argument field</u> ~~for executing the~~ ~~command code~~, and

execute the command code <u>using the extracted arguments</u>.

7.   (Previously Presented) The electric device of claim 6, wherein the upper layer is configured to discard arguments which are not extracted from the argument field.

8.   (Previously Presented) The electric device of claim 6, wherein, when arguments included in the argument field of the message are deficient, the upper layer is configured to set the deficient arguments as predetermined values.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing a message in a home network system, the

home network system including at least two electric devices, and a network based on a predetermined protocol for connecting the electric devices, the method comprising the steps of:

generating and transmitting, at one electric device, a message including a command code field implying an operation that is to be performed by the other electric device, and

an argument field <u>including the number of arguments</u> ~~extendable~~ according to a version of a protocol applied to one electric device for performing the <u>command code</u> ~~operation~~;

extracting, at the other electric device, a command code from the message;

extracting, at the other electric device, <u>as many</u> arguments ~~from the argument field~~ <u>as necessary</u> <u>in</u> ~~according to~~ a version of a protocol applied to the other electric device ~~for executing the command code~~; and

executing, at the other electric device, the command code.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step for discarding, at the other electric device, arguments which are not extracted from the argument field.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step for setting deficient arguments as predetermined values, when arguments included in the argument field of the message are deficient.

13 -18. (Canceled)